

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

THE PORTO RICAN GRASSHOPPER SPARROW.*

BY JAMES L. PETERS.

Ridgway, in 1901,† gave the range of *Ammodramus savannarum savannarum* as "Jamaica and Porto Rico, resident; and according to Hartert the islands of Curaçao and Bonaire . . ." Since that time Hartert has described‡ *Ammodramus s. caribaeus* from Curaçao and Bonaire, and *A. s. intricatus*§ from Santo Domingo. Wetmore, in his report on the Birds of Porto Rico,|| referred specimens of *A. savannarum* from that island to the Haytian race.

While collecting in Porto Rico for the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy in the winter of 1916-17, I secured a small series of the resident Grasshopper Sparrow, and have been able to compare it with the series I collected during the previous winter in Santo Domingo. This study proves that the Porto Rican bird belongs to a hitherto undescribed race, which, instead of being closest to *A. s. intricatus*, is much more like *A. s. savannarum* in appearance, the latter hereby restricted to Jamaica.

The resident form of the Grasshopper Sparrow found in Porto Rico I propose to call

***Ammodramus savannarum borinquensis*, subsp. nov.**

Type, No. 80,493, collection Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, adult male, Cabo Rojo, Porto Rico, February 5, 1917, James L. Peters. (Orig. No. 2009.)

Similar to *A. s. savannarum* (Gmelin), but averaging smaller; crown

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† Bull. 50, U. S. Nat. Mus., Part I (p. 206).

‡ Bull. Brit. Orn. Club, 19, 1907 (pp. 92-94).

§ Nov. Zool., IX, 1902 (p. 298).

|| Bull. 326, U. S. Dept. Agr., 1916 (p. 127).

stripe, edgings of interscapulars, inner secondaries and upper tail-coverts warm buff* instead of light buff, color of the sides of head, flanks, under tail-coverts and band across breast more intense (between cinnamon buff and clay color).

MEASUREMENTS (in millimeters).

M. C. Z. No.	Sex.	Wing.	Tail.	Bill.	Tarsus.
80,492	♂	57	47	12	21
80,493	♂ (type)	58	44	12	21.5
80,494	♀	55	44	12	20.5

December specimens from Jamaica somewhat approach the Porto Rican bird in the intensity of the buff, but may be readily distinguished by the general grayish tone of the upper tail-coverts, which are distinctly buffy in specimens from Porto Rico.

The Santo Domingo bird is different from either, the prevailing ground color of the upper parts is blackish and the buff is paler, particularly above, than even the Jamaican bird.

* Colors according to Ridgway's Standard of 1912.